

Sembrich's Real Farewell Made at Dinner Tendered Her by Musicians

Tribute Paid Her at Hotel Astor Ends in a Frolic—Public Ceremonies at the Metropolitan.

BY SYLVESTER RAWLING.

"TO Marcella Sembrich, singer, artist, woman."

That was the toast to which one hundred and fifty men and women—musicians, writers about music, and their wives—responded at the Hotel Astor last night with cheer and tears. It was the last public tribute to the wonderful little woman whose voice and art for a quarter of a century have charmed us, and who has elected to withdraw her personality from the operatic scene while her powers are still unimpaired.

There was an official farewell to her at the Metropolitan Opera-house on Saturday night. The programme was made up of the first act of "Don Pasquale," in which she was Norma, and Scotti was Malatesta; of the second act of "The Barber of Seville," in which she was Rosina, with Elmore as Almamo, Caruso as Figaro, and Scotti as Basilio and Patricia as Bartolo, and of the first act of "Traviata," with herself as Violetta, Geraldine Farrar as Flora, Caruso as Alfredo, Scotti as Donpoli, and all the principal members of the company, men and women—with one conspicuous exception—in the chorus. Afterward Mr. Dippel, on behalf of the directors of the Metropolitan Opera-house, addressed her, making her an honorary member of the company for life; and then, for the public, presented her with a string of pearls and a jeweled watch, and the members of the orchestra and the stage hands gave her a loving cup.

All this was done in the presence of the whole company, the ceremonies ending with the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the crowded house joining in the singing of the national anthem to the best of its ability. For long after the great audience remained to applaud and to cheer and to wave handkerchiefs and to shower bouquets upon the little prima donna, who all the time, laughing and smiling and kissing her hands, made the tribute stoppage from sheer exhaustion.

A more intimate note was sounded at last night's dinner. Mr. Krebber, dean of the music critics, who presided, struck it instantly. In a modest speech, full of sentiment and feeling, he not only extolled the little lady's virtues as singer, artist and intellectual woman, to whom the public owes so much, but he dwelt upon her innate worthiness and the graciousness of her personality, which he had been fortunate enough to know all these years. Mr. Henderson added his tribute to the artist about whom he had been writing as he said, for twenty-five years. He also contributed a poem in honor of Marcella Sembrich worthy enough to raise the question whether he had not missed his vocation.

Then followed Padernski, who made a speech in English about the great art of his fellow countrywoman and the respect in which she is held by all Poles, that was a marvel in appropriate expression. Like a few other distinguished foreigners who have mastered our native tongue, he finds not only the proper word to use, but the most apt phrasing for his sentences. Walter Damsch said something about the good things we might expect and had a right to demand from Mme. Sembrich in concert work, and then some of the principal operas in which she has appeared were named by Louise Homer, Dippel, Caruso, Scotti and other artists at various tables to the "Merry Widow" waltz. This was one of the surprises that Mr. Krebber had provided.

Mme. Sembrich's speech was made along the lines predicted in her chat with the writer printed in The Evening World on Saturday. Her tears were really near to her surface, and so were those of everybody who heard her. Afterward there was dancing, and the places of the regular musicians were taken by Franz Kneisel, Sam Franko, David Mannes, Leo Schultz and other distinguished players. Mme. Sembrich herself and Madame Luckstone were at the piano in the "Blue Danube" waltz. Alfred Hitchcock, the drum, Caruso played a tambourine. It was a jolly evening.

EMMY DESTIN MAKES SPLENDID "MADAMA BUTTERFLY."

Emmy Destin appeared for the first time in New York at the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday afternoon as Cio-Cio-San in "Madama Butterfly," disclosing one of the most marvelous singing and histrionic impersonations it has been the privilege of the writer ever to see. This Bohemian artist is not in face or figure an ideal representation of Puccini's little Japanese child-woman, but her beautiful voice and her ripe art imbue the character with a distinction it has never before attained.

Rinaldo Grassi, the new Italian tenor, a mere slip of a boy to look at, sang "Leontine," Pinkerton with charm and grace. His voice has both power and sweetness. His acting sometimes lacked spontaneity and he might have worn a different suit of clothes after three years. Amato sang the part of the American Consul much better than he looked it. Rita Fornia made her Suzuki very real and the whole performance under Toscanini was most satisfactory.

LINA CAVALIERI, AS MINNI, PLEASES AT THE METROPOLITAN.

Lina Cavallieri sang Minni in "La Boheme" at the Metropolitan Opera House on Saturday afternoon to the satisfaction of a large audience. Her impersonation had charm and tenderness, and in Mr. Hammerstein's wonderful house for acoustics her voice was adequate for the singing of the part. Zepplini was an attractive Musetta, and Constantino, Sammarco, De Segura, Glanoli-Galetti and Fosetta filled out the men's parts admirably. Campanini conducted.

HERTZ FORCED TO BREAK RULE AT THE METROPOLITAN.

Alfred Hertz had a strike on his hands for a few moments last evening at the concert at the Metropolitan Opera House. The audience wanted Amato to sing again, and Amato was willing, but Hertz was not. Yet eventually he yielded with impatient grace. Gortis,

actually received also, were the "Tannhauser" overture and "Tide of the Valtires." Mile. Labla, who has become so popular on Sunday nights, gave two German songs, although on the programme for Italian popular songs. She has now sung in French, Italian, Russian and German, and has delighted with her versatility as well as her voice. Mile. Gerville-Renache was again indisposed and Mile. Zepplini sang in her place very acceptably. The vocal list of the evening, so far as the men singers were concerned, was by Glanoli-Galetti, whose comic air, "The Recruit," by Lombardini, caused much merriment and an encore, the only one of the evening. Mme. Mariska-Aldrich gave two songs by Altilio Farulli, who accompanied. The other soloists of the evening were Miles. Trentini, Koelling and Esplanasse, and Messrs. Valles, Vieulle and Poiese.

"TALES OF HOFFMANN" AT MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE.

"Tales of Hoffmann" again delighted a well filled house at the Manhattan on Saturday evening. Renaud was superb in his triple role. Palmores never sang better and Zepplini and Gilbert were also at their best. After each act the audience called the principals before the curtain five times and the barcarole had to be repeated, of course. From start to finish the performance was spirited. Renaud's work as Miracle was enthusiastically applauded. M. Charlier led.

"SALOME" MUSIC DRAWS CROWD TO MANHATTAN.

"Dance of the Seven Veils," from Salome, was enough to draw a crowded house to the Manhattan last evening, even had the programme not been otherwise filled with excellent numbers. M. Campanini augmented his orchestra to 39 pieces and such a future great! The Strauss music that the director and to draw his thanks time and time again. An orchestral double number, enthusi-

BONCI KNIGHTED.

Alessandro Bonci has been made by the Emperor of Austria a Knight of the Order of Francis Joseph. This order is rarely bestowed upon any but Austrians. The Emperor's chamberlain has informed Mr. Bonci that the order was given to him on account of his artistic merits and of his many acts of benevolence.

MME. BLAUVELT HERE.

Mme. Lillian Blauvelt, the opera singer, and Charles Fraser, Mrs. Fraser and their son, arrived on the Celtic yesterday.

ROBT. A. GARDINER TO WED.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The engagement is announced of Robert Alexander Gardiner, of New York, and Miss Nora Loftus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Coates, of London.

Said to Cure Piles, Liver Trouble and Constipation.

Says a well-known motherly nurse-matron of one of our largest hospitals: "Never permit yourself or any member of your family to be constipated twenty-four hours; for back of nearly all sickness, especially those most difficult to treat, such as appendicitis, typhoid, malaria, scarlet fever, diphtheria, smallpox, measles and whooping cough, is neglected or improperly treated constipation. Let every intelligent family get the following prescription filled: 'Obtain of any leading druggist 'one ounce aromatic fluid cascara,' 'one ounce compound essence cardoli' and 'two ounces aromatic senna rhubarb.' Mix and adults take from one-half to two teaspoonsful after each meal. Mild and honeylike, the children take readily five drops to a teaspoonful, according to age, after each meal. This may be used without any bad effects and with absolute certainty of cure.'

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Family Clothes Wringers, with cycle ball-bearings, 11-in. solid rubber rolls, hand-fast clamps, guaranteed for three years; regularly \$3.97; special Tuesday in the basement.....\$2.74

Gilt Novelty Mantel Clocks, about 8 in. high; three designs to select from; slight imperfections; guaranteed one-day movements; were \$1.89; special Tuesday in the basement.....96c

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Lace-trimmed Hand-made Centerpieces, genuine French linen, pure linen centres, lace corners 16-in. deep; 36x36 in.; regularly \$1.49; special Tuesday on the main floor.....98c

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Striped Couch Covers, Oriental effects, tassel fringe; sold elsewhere at \$1.00 to \$1.50 each; special Tuesday on the third floor.....74c and 99c

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